

IN THE DRAWINGS:

In the Office Action at item 1, the Examiner objected to the drawings. In order to overcome these objections, replacement figures 3 and 4 are submitted herewith. Approval of these changes to the Drawings is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 13, 2004, the Examiner objects to the drawings; rejects claims 1-2, 4, 6-13, 17-23 and 29-34 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph; claims 1-2, 6, 8-13, 17-18, 20 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hisaya (JP59215519A); and claims 1-2, 9-13 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Masaaki (JP57155035A). The foregoing rejections and objections are respectfully traversed.

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification, drawings and claims 4, 6-11, 15, 17-23 and 29-34 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 12 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3, 5, 14, 16, 24-28 and 37-40 are allowed. Claims 3-11, 14-34 and 37-40 are pending and under consideration.

In the specification and FIGS. 3 and 4, "weight sensor 22" has been replaced with "weight detecting unit 40" and "sensing element 22d" has been replaced with "weight sensor 22d" to overcome the objections. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

In accordance with the Examiner's comments on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 19, 21-23 and 29-34 have been amended to further clarify the invention. Therefore, withdrawal of the 112 rejections is respectfully requested.

Further, claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled and claims 4 and 6 have been amended to depend from claim 3. Therefore, claims 4 and 6 are deemed allowable at least due to their dependency upon claim 3.

Further, claims 9, 10 and 11 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 37, 38 and 39, respectively. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Further, claims 12 and 13 have been cancelled and claims 15 and 17 have been amended to depend from claim 14. Therefore, claims 15, 17, 18 and 20 are deemed allowable at least due to their dependency upon claim 14.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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